

Appl. No. 10/635,249  
Docket No. 8556C  
Amdt. dated December 20, 2006  
Reply to Office Action mailed on September 27, 2006  
Customer No. 27752

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#### REMARKS

##### Claim Status

Before entry of this Amendment, claims 7-20 were pending in the present application. Claims 7-11 and 15 are cancelled herein without prejudice. Claims 12 and 16 are amended herein. Thus, following entry of this Amendment, claims 12-14 and 16-20 will be pending. No additional claims fee is believed to be due.

##### Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 17-20 are allowed. Dependent claims 15 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 12 is amended herein to include the limitations recited in dependent claim 15 (cancelled), and claim 16 is amended herein to depend from claim 12. As such, claim 12 is believed to be in form for allowance and claim 16 is no longer objectionable.

##### Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office action, claims 7-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). These rejections are expressly not agreed with or acquiesced to. Nevertheless, in an effort to obtain timely issue of the allowed claims, claims 7-11 are cancelled, and claim 12 is amended as discussed above. As such, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are rendered moot.

##### Conclusion

In light of the amendments presented, all remaining claims are in form for allowance and such indication is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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